

**TESTIMONY OF ANDREA G. SHEPTOFF**

**HB5493 "Puppy Lemon Law", Fines for Pet Stores and Breeding Kennels**  
**HB5798 An Act Prohibiting the Unreasonable Confinement and Tethering of Dogs**  
**HB5808 An Act Concerning Animal Control Officers and the Release of Rabies Vaccination Records**

Hello. And thank you Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee for allowing me to express my feelings on three bills that are before this Committee. Passage of these three Bills is extremely important to me and my family, and I deeply regret being unable to be with you in person today. As an Animal Welfare Volunteer for over 40 years, a member of NIFAA (the National Institute for Animal Advocacy), the Humane Society of the United States (Legislative Action), various other animal welfare institutions and a Connecticut Voter, I care very deeply about these issues and am writing to urge your support of all three Bills.

**HB5493 - "PUPPY LEMON LAW". FINES FOR PET STORES AND BREEDING KENNELS.** Unfortunately, unless laws such as this are enacted, thousands of animals will continue to live and be sold under neglectful and substandard conditions. Pet Stores and Kennels need to be held accountable and consumers need to be protected. HB5493 would improve the State's "Puppy Lemon Law" by instituting fines for those not complying with regulations. My only regret is that it does not address the tragedy and horrific torture of animals in "Puppy Mills".

**HB5798 - AN ACT PROHIBITING THE UNREASONABLE CONFINEMENT AND TETHERING OF DOGS.** This Bill will better the living conditions of dogs that are doomed to exist their entire lives on a chain, unable to live their natural lifestyle—that is, to be free to run and play as dictated by their natural instincts, sometimes from the time they are puppies until death. Dogs continually chained tend to bark incessantly from frustration and boredom which provokes numerous complaints from neighbors. These dogs are also more aggressive and, therefore, more dangerous to anyone approaching them. In addition, chaining becomes more repulsive and heartbreaking as temperatures plummet or rise to dangerous levels.

**HB5808 - AN ACT CONCERNING ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS AND THE RELEASE OF RABIES VACCINATION RECORDS** In my opinion this Bill should definitely be passed in order to allow ACOs to enforce current dog licensing laws and to provide additional monies to the State's Animal Population Control Program (APCP).

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be measured by the way in which its animals are treated," Mahatma Gandhi 1869-1948

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